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What's New in Polynesia

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problems of erosion and weathering are unresolved, and there is no active conservation and preservation plan in view.

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NEWS AND NOTES

What's New in Polynesia

Hawai'i.

★ The Sierra Club Legal Defense Fund has filed suit in state court to stop a developer from building a massive, \$18 million water pipeline that would facilitate a development explosion on tiny Moloka'i island. The developer plans to build four hotels, three golf courses, and at least 600 luxury homes onto an already existing resort. To acquire the necessary amount of water, the developer started construction on a pipeline that could drain as much as 20 million gallons a day from Moloka'i's sole aquifer. However, the aquifer's estimated sustainable yield is only seven million gallons a day. The State Board of Land and Natural Resources granted approval to build a vital segment of the project on state land—a violation of the Hawai'i Environmental Policy Act. Worse, the developer bulldozed the entire nine miles knowing that

the environmental review process was incomplete. The court has issued a preliminary injunction; a final ruling is awaited.

In 1990 the Sierra Club Legal Defense attorneys won a case against Brigham Young University and Zions Securities Corporation for polluting a nearby wetland, causing health problems and interfering with taro farming. The defendants agreed to upgrade the sewage treatment plant, restore the wetland and contribute \$2.25 million to a new non-profit foundation dedicated to native Hawaiian and environmental issues. [From *In Brief*: Sierra Club Legal Defense Fund Newsletter, 1994].

★ With chants and drums and the sound of conch shell horns, Hawai'i welcomed the return of Kaho'olawe Island from the U.S. Navy. Kaho'olawe is a 45 square mile island only 8 miles off the coast of Maui, used for target practice by the US Navy for 50 years. The Navy has pledged to restore the island, remove unexploded ordinance and other debris; Congress has authorized \$400 million over 10 years for the clean-up. The island will remain restricted due to danger from live ordinance; access is allowed only with authorization and guides are required. At Palauea Beach, Maui, a huge crowd turned out for the ceremony and official transfer of documents. This was followed with prayers, chants, and a hula performance. Many Hawaiians see this as a step toward sovereignty.

★ Kaho'olawe is again in the news: as a result of a survey and documentation project on that island's petroglyph sites, 13 petroglyphs have been dated by a process called accelerator mass spectrometry. The project was funded by the Kaho'olawe Island Reconveyance Commission; the petroglyph study was done by Edward Stasack and Georgia Lee; the dating was under the direction of Dr. Ronald Dorn. The earliest date, from a stick figure at Hakioawa, is AD 983; most of the 13 dates fall around 1230-1320. The latest date is 1660±10. Thus all of those tested are prehistoric. These are the first petroglyphs from Hawai'i to be dated by this or any other scientific method. We hope to have an in-depth report on Kaho'olawe's petroglyphs in a future issue of *RNJ*.

Pitcairn. *The Pitcairn Miscellany* reports that a new stamp series is now available, featuring six species of lizards from Henderson Island. Planned issues for 1994 include sea anemones/corals, and shipwrecks. All stamp sales and First Day Covers are handled by the Pitcairn Islands Administration, % British Consulate General, Private Bag 92014, Auckland, NZ.

Other news from Pitcairn reports that only 40 inhabitants are currently living on the island and supply ship service has been restricted to three ships per year.

Nauru. Rehabilitation work on the island's mined out areas is in the planning stages. Australia and Nauru reached a settlement, with Nauru being granted A \$107 million to carry out rehabilitation of areas devastated by phosphate mining during the years prior to independence. A team of experts has